



**AKRON GENERAL  
MEDICAL CENTER**  
*Radiology*

## Angiography

Preparing for Your  
Angiogram

### PREPARING FOR YOUR ANGIOGRAM

What are the  
patient  
instructions?

An angiogram is a diagnostic procedure performed by an interventional radiologist to study blood vessels throughout the body to determine if there is blockage of an artery. An angiogram can identify exactly where the artery is blocked, how severe it is and its cause. It can also detect and get a detailed image of an aneurysm (an area of an artery that has ballooned out) and can be used by surgeons in planning treatment options.

What will happen?

What will happen  
after the  
angiogram?

### WHAT ARE THE PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS?

What should  
you do at home?

If you are already a patient in the hospital, your doctors and nurses will give you instructions. If you are being admitted on the morning of the procedure, follow these instructions unless your doctor specifies otherwise.

Call your doctor  
immediately if:

What are the  
risks?

Where should you  
go for the test?

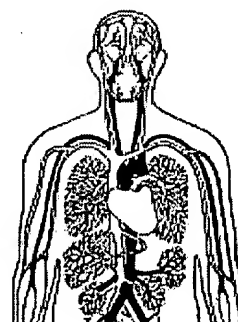
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- Blood tests will be done prior to the day of your procedure.
- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your procedure.
- Most people should continue to take their prescribed medications. Bring a list of your current medications with you.
- If you are diabetic and take insulin, ask your doctor about modifying your insulin dose for the day of the procedure.
- If you are taking Metformin (Glucophage), you must tell your doctor so that it can be stopped 48 hours before and 48 hours after the exam.
- If you take the blood thinner Coumadin, you must tell your doctor so that it can be stopped.
- If you are allergic to contrast (X-ray dye) or iodine, let your doctor know as soon as possible. Your doctor can then prescribe medication to minimize allergic reaction and will take special precautions during the procedure.
- Let your doctor know if you are or suspect that you may be pregnant.

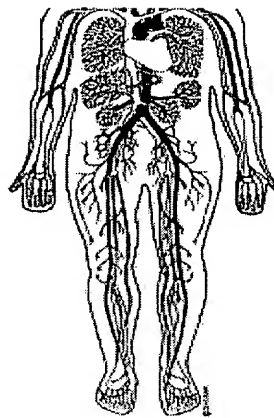
### WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

Before your angiogram, a staff member will talk with you and your family about the procedure and answer your questions. An IV line will be placed in your vein before the procedure to give you fluids and medications during the procedure.

Your skin will be washed where the catheter will be inserted, usually the



catheter will be inserted, usually the groin or upper arm. The doctor will then inject a local anesthetic into the area. You will feel a pin prick and a burning sensation when the local anesthetic is injected. After that, you will only feel pressure as the doctor guides the catheter through your body to the artery being studied. The doctor will guide the catheter by watching it on an X-ray screen. You will not feel the catheter moving through your arteries.



When the catheter is in the correct position, contrast (X-ray dye) will be injected through the catheter while X-rays are taken. Several contrast injections and several sets of X-rays will be needed to complete the test. An angiogram usually takes one to two hours, however, it is not possible to know exactly how much time the procedure will require. In some cases it may take longer if a second procedure such as an angioplasty is performed.

After the procedure, your arterial catheter will be removed and pressure will be placed on the area for 10-20 minutes to stop any bleeding. Following the catheter removal, you will lie flat in bed for a minimum of eight hours.

The interventional radiologist will study the X-rays and discuss the results with your doctors. The results of the exam will be given to you by the doctor who ordered the exam.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE ANGIOGRAM?**

If you are an inpatient, you will return to your room. Your nursing staff will let you know when you can eat and how long you need to remain in bed (usually a minimum of eight hours).

If you are an outpatient, you probably will go home after an eight-hour observation period. Arrange for someone to drive you home since you may not drive for 24 hours after the procedure.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO AT HOME?**

- Relax for 24 hours.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Resume your regular diet.
- Keep a bandage on the insertion site for a day.
- Do not drive or run machinery for at least 24 hours.
- Avoid strenuous exercise or lifting for at least two days.
- Do not take a hot bath or shower for at least 24 hours.

#### ***Call your doctor immediately:***

- if you start to bleed where the catheter was inserted. If you start to bleed, lie flat and apply pressure to the bleeding area.

Your doctor will tell you if you need to return to the hospital.

- if there is any change in the color or temperature, or numbness of the area where the catheter was inserted.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Angiography is safe. However, use of a catheter in your arteries and use of contrast can present some risk. Placing a catheter in your artery can damage it, and some patients can get ill from contrast injections, especially patients with diabetes, kidney disease, asthma, or a previous allergic reaction. If you have an allergy to contrast, let your doctor know before the exam. Other risks depend on the artery being studied. The exact risks of your angiogram will be discussed in detail with you before your procedure.

### WHERE SHOULD YOU GO FOR THE TEST?

Please go to Akron General's Admitting offices, located off the main entrance on the second floor. The Radiology Department is located on the first floor of the hospital. Please call Radiology at (330) 344-6450 with any questions. **If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with your physician.**

*This information should not be considered specific medical advice and is not meant to replace professional medical services. Please speak to your physician regarding symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, etc.*

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